

Transactions

**FEBRUARY/MARCH
2007**

TRANSPORTATION NEWS
FOR THE NINE-COUNTY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



In Print

Annual Report Focuses on Moments and Momentum

The blur of cars and lights on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge — seen at dusk through the windshield of an AC Transit bus — makes for a compelling cover for MTC's just-issued *2006 Annual Report*. The image captures a point in time and sets the stage for the theme: "Moments & Momentum." Inside, we recap in words and photos the events and milestones that made 2006 a banner year of progress for MTC and its offshoots, the Bay Area Toll Authority and the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways.

View online at <www.mtc.ca.gov/library>; to order a hard copy, contact <library@mtc.ca.gov> or call 510.817.5836.

Survey

Public Participation Plan

Over the next six months we will be conducting a review of MTC's outreach practices in order to better involve the Bay Area public in transportation decisions. We will be gathering feedback from our advisors and other stakeholders by holding focus groups, as well as conducting an online survey accessible to the public via our Web site. Your feedback will help shape a new Public Participation Plan that we will unveil this summer.

To take the public participation survey, go to MTC's Web site by April 2, 2007: <www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved>.



Crews delicately hoist a massive 750-ton segment — the last of 452 precast concrete deck pieces — into place on the new East Span Skyway. The banner reads: "Skyway Project — Final Segment: Congratulations to everyone involved!"

New Bay Bridge East Span Milestone: Skyway Deck Complete

CLOSING OF ONE CHAPTER AND BEGINNING OF ANOTHER AS WORK ADVANCES ON TOWER SEGMENT

MTC's Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) and Caltrans summoned the media to the Delta city of Stockton in December to witness a historic event: the shipping by barge of the last of the 452 precast concrete segments that make up the twin decks of the Bay Bridge's new East Span Skyway. A couple of days later and some 80 miles downstream, the media looked on again as crews lifted the banner- and flag-festooned 750-ton segment into place 100 feet above San Francisco Bay.

The shutdown of the Stockton fabrication yard marks a key milestone both for the bridge workers and for the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee (TBPOC), made up of representatives from Caltrans, BATA and the California Transportation Commission. "It's the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another for this monumental project," said BATA Deputy Executive Director Andrew Fremier, alluding to the challenging next phases of construction.

For the past three years, the now-silent Stockton yard was a beehive of activity as roughly 260 bridge builders working for Caltrans and the joint venture contractor, Kiewit-FCI-Manson (KFM), processed 130,000 cubic yards of concrete and 31 million pounds



The 452 concrete deck segments were "match-cast" to fit precisely against each other.

of steel. Custom-made equipment was used to "match-cast" every piece to fit precisely with adjoining pieces. Those sections now make up the roadway of the 1.2-mile-long Skyway — the longest portion of the new East Span.

Although the road deck is in place, the Skyway contract is not scheduled for completion until the end of 2007. Between now and

then, Caltrans will place the final concrete overlay, install electrical and mechanical systems, and finish the bike and pedestrian path.

The Skyway now ends abruptly in midair a half-mile from Yerba Buena Island, but eventually will link to the bridge's crowning element, a stunning suspension span with a 525-foot tower. Piles for the tower's marine foundations were drilled 196 feet below the waterline to anchor in bedrock. Crews are now in the process of attaching a massive steel footing box — which weighs 2,100 tons and would cover a basketball court — to the piles at water level and sealing it with concrete to create the tower's foundation. Fabricated in Texas, the footing box is so immense

Continued on back page



The last Skyway deck section makes the 80-mile journey from Stockton to the construction site by barge.



Jutting a mile into the Bay, the Skyway's twin decks stand ready to meet up with the self-anchored suspension span.

Calendar

Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings take place at:
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium
101 Eighth Street, Oakland
(Across from the Lake Merritt BART station)

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 28, 2007

10 am
Bay Area Toll Authority*

10:10 am
Metropolitan Transportation Commission*

THURSDAY
APRIL 5, 2007

10:30 am
Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

MONDAY
APRIL 9, 2007

2 pm
TransLink® Operating Group
AC Transit, Room to Be Determined
1600 Franklin Street, Oakland

TUESDAY
APRIL 10, 2007

2 pm
Partnership Board*
Preservation Park, Nile Hall
668 13th Street, Oakland

3:30 pm
Minority Citizens Advisory Committee

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 11, 2007

9:30 am
Bay Area Toll Authority
Oversight Committee*

9:45 am
Administration Committee*

10:15 am
Programming and Allocations Committee*

12:30 pm
MTC Advisory Council

FRIDAY
APRIL 13, 2007

9:30 am
Planning Committee*

Public Hearing: Amendments to the
Transportation 2030 Plan and 2007
Transportation Improvement Program

9:45 am
Operations Committee*

10 am
Legislation Committee*

MONDAY
APRIL 16, 2007

1:30 pm
Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

THURSDAY
APRIL 19, 2007

9:30 am
Regional Pedestrian Committee
MetroCenter, Claremont Conference Room

1 pm
Regional Bicycle Working Group
MetroCenter, Claremont Conference Room

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 25, 2007

10 am
Bay Area Toll Authority*

10:05 am
Metropolitan Transportation Commission*
Public Hearing: See April 13 for details

*Webcast on <www.mtc.ca.gov>.

Note: Dates, times and locations of MTC meetings may change. Please confirm by calling 510.817.5757. Agendas, updated meeting schedules and meeting packets are posted on MTC's Web site: <www.mtc.ca.gov>.

Announcement

Call for Advisors

MTC is seeking applicants for three advisory bodies — the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee, the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee and the Advisory Council (which includes environmental, business, labor, academia, freight, engineering, construction, media and other interests as well as transportation users). MTC advisors serve two-year terms, with the next term starting in August 2007. The deadline to apply is April 13, 2007, and applications can be submitted online at <www.mtc.ca.gov>. Further information on each of the advisory committees is also posted on the Web. For a paper application, phone 510.817.5757 or e-mail <info@mtc.ca.gov>.

Bay Bridge East Span Skyway

Continued from front page

that the only transport option was via barge through the Panama Canal. Up ahead in 2007, Yerba Buena Island will be a hub of activity as construction proceeds on the span's western land-based foundations, as well as on a temporary structure south of the existing bridge. Dubbed the "south-south detour," this structure will carry both directions of diverted bridge traffic when the time comes to close the existing roadway near the tunnel in order to connect the new span at this location. The tall



A basketball-court-sized section of the foundation for the East Span tower passes through the Panama Canal.

columns that will support the temporary viaduct — a double-deck steel truss structure — are already 50 percent complete and look like out-of-place Greek Doric columns on the banks of the island. Halfway around the world, in South Korea, skilled metal workers are fabricating the temporary steel viaduct, which will be shipped across the Pacific. The suspension span's permanent steel deck sections, along with the tower and cables, will be fabricated near Shanghai, China, and then erected (or in the case of the cables, hung) starting in 2009.

— Karin Betts

Project Update

New Benicia-Martinez Span Nears Completion

Crews are now putting the finishing touches on the second span of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge in preparation for its opening later this year. The span will carry five lanes of northbound traffic from Contra Costa County to Solano County, doubling the capacity of Interstate 680 over the Carquinez Strait. The existing bridge will be converted to four lanes of southbound traffic with a two-way bicycle/pedestrian lane — another link in the regional Bay Trail.

The new bridge makes a graceful curve across the Strait, east of both the existing span and the Union Pacific railroad bridge. The \$1.2-billion project includes a new toll plaza plus reconstruction of the Interstate 680 interchanges at Interstate 780 in Benicia and Marina Vista/Waterfront Road in Martinez. The opening of the bridge and toll plaza will mark the Bay Area debut of open-road tolling, which will allow vehicles equipped with FasTrak® electronic toll tags to bypass the toll booths and cross the span without slowing down. The deck of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge was cast in place in



The futuristic toll plaza of the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge is designed for open-road tolling, allowing motorists with FasTrak® toll tags to pass through the far left lanes at highway speeds.

15-foot-wide segments, creating the illusion that the new bridge materialized slowly out of thin air. Each of the bridge's 17 columns sprouted balanced deck segments that grew toward their neighboring column until all 344 segments

were cast. The last step, completed in December 2006, involved connecting these branches to create a sleek, continuous deck. MTC oversees the project in its role as the Bay Area Toll Authority.

— Karin Betts

Innovation

Predict-a-TripSM: Past Data Helps Predict Future Traffic

MTC has once again expanded its award-winning 511 traveler information service by adding a new Web-based feature that allows motorists to estimate the length of a trip in terms of minutes and hours well in advance of when they hit the road. Dubbed "Predict-a-TripSM," the new feature builds on the popular 511 Driving TimesSM service by using historical information on freeway traffic speeds and driving times to provide point-to-point forecasts for about 90 per-



cent of the Bay Area freeway network. Predict-a-TripSM is available free of charge on the 511 Traffic page at 511.org, but is not available through the 511 phone service. Introduced by MTC in 2004, 511 Driving TimesSM calculates how long it will take to get from point A to point B given current traffic

conditions and incidents. Now with Predict-a-TripSM, users can select a Driving TimesSM route on the interactive 511 traffic map, and then choose the day of the week and the time of day they plan to travel. There is also a text-based method of accessing the information. Predict-a-TripSM is particularly helpful for motorists planning trips that are not part of their normal routine. "This is great for people who may be planning dinner at a hot new restaurant, or who are catching a flight out of SFO or maybe going to a job interview," said Project Manager Benjamin McKeever. "If you're thinking of moving to a different part of the

Bay Area, Predict-a-TripSM can also help estimate the length of your morning and evening commutes." The Driving TimesSM system taps data from windshield-mounted FasTrak® toll tags (which, in addition to facilitating electronic toll collection, do double-duty as traffic probes, with the information scrambled to protect the identity of the driver). The FasTrak® data is augmented with data from radar sensors alongside freeways and subpavement loop sensors. Predict-a-TripSM accesses historical traffic flows based on the day of the week, the time of day and whether a holiday is involved.

— John Goodwin

Funding Update

Infrastructure Bond Money Starts to Flow



Caltrans Director Will Kempton (left), San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom (middle) and Governor Schwarzenegger gather at the Presidio to celebrate the awarding of \$405 million to replace Doyle Drive with a parkway.

MTC and its partners are cheering the recent decision by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to set aside \$1.7 billion in new funding for Bay Area transportation projects. The funds largely derive from the \$19.9-billion transportation infrastructure bond package that the state's voters handily approved on the November ballot. Within days of passage of Proposition 1B, MTC issued a call for projects for the first increment of money — \$4.5 billion statewide from the newly created Corridor Mobility Improvement Account to alleviate congestion. MTC mobilized to identify projects that were worthy and ready, and to get buy-in from local cities and counties. By the time January rolled around, the region could present a unified front to the CTC on a \$2 billion proposal, with the accent on completing the region's carpool-lane network. The long-delayed reconstruction of Doyle Drive, which functions as San Francisco's approach to the Golden Gate Bridge, also was part of the mix. When the dust settled on the statewide sweepstakes, the CTC had earmarked funds for 19 Bay Area projects, including \$175 million for the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel; \$174 million to construct high-occupancy-vehicle lanes along a stretch of Interstate 580 in Alameda County; and \$405 million for the Doyle Drive project. For a complete list, go to <www.mtc.ca.gov/funding>.

— Brenda Kahn



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WWW.MTC.CA.GOV

Commissioners

- Bill Dodd, Chair
Napa County and Cities
- Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
Alameda County
- Tom Ammiano
City and County of San Francisco
- Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County
- Bob Blanchard
Sonoma County and Cities
- Dean J. Chu
Cities of Santa Clara County
- Dave Cortese
Association of Bay Area Governments
- Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation
- Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County
- Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities
- Sue Lempert
Cities of San Mateo County
- Jon Rubin
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee
- Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
- James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities
- Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County
- Amy Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County
- Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Transactions

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, California 94607
510.817.5700 TEL.
510.817.5769 TDD/TTY
510.817.5848 FAX
info@mtc.ca.gov E-MAIL
www.mtc.ca.gov WEB
Steve Heminger
Executive Director
Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Operations
Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Bay Area Toll Authority
Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy
Randy Rentschler
Director, Legislation and Public Affairs
Brenda Kahn
Editor
Joe Curley
Associate Editor
Karin Betts, John Goodwin
Editorial Staff
Finger Design Associates, Oakland
Design and Production
Paris Printing, Point Richmond
Printing
Printed on recycled paper.
©2007 MTC. All rights reserved.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT
FIRST CLASS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 854